

# THE GRAD ACT

## Growing Reputable Academic Departments Act

### ABOUT THE GRAD ACT:

The Growing Reputable Academic Departments Act (GRAD Act) would expand the number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) eligible to receive federal funding for graduate-level STEM programs.

Under sections 723 and 724 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, only enumerated universities are eligible to receive funding to support graduate-level STEM programs, leaving out unlisted HBCUs and PBIs across the country. The Growing Reputable Academic Departments Act would amend language in both sections to include unlisted institutions with qualified master's degree programs.

### THE GRAD ACT WOULD:

- Amend language in the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 to expand the list of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) eligible to receive federal funding for graduate-level STEM programs.
- Allocate any excess discretionary funding towards graduate-level STEM programs at HBCUs and PBIs to the newly eligible institutions.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GRAD ACT:

HBCUs and PBIs are drivers of innovation and key partners in rural and urban communities, yet have been historically undervalued and underfunded. This legislation seeks to rectify this disparity by ensuring these institutions are able to bolster STEM graduate research and degree programs. We urge you to join us in this important effort to ensure HBCUs and PBIs are able to provide high-quality education to all students and prepare the next generation of STEM professionals for the future.

*This legislation is endorsed by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the United Negro College Fund.*